



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

mitted to board or go alongside any passing vessel from the aforesaid places.

Any person contravening any of the foregoing restrictions shall be liable to the penalties laid down in Her Majesty's order in council dated July 11, 1839.

God save the Queen.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the Island of St. Helena this 23d day of September, 1899.

R. A. STERNDALE,
Governor.

By command of his excellency the governor in council.

ROBT. R. BRUCE,
For Colonial Secretary.

TURKEY.

Report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 229.]

THE EPIDEMIC OF PLAGUE.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *October 7, 1899.*

SIR: The prominent sanitary question is at present the existence of plague which threatens this country. In Egypt it exists still, but the inhabitants of said country hide it. The Egyptian authorities had decided not to notify any more on the bill of health delivered to the ships the existence of plague, because for about fifteen days no plague cases have been officially registered, though it is in said lapse of time that the plague case occurred which proved fatal, observed at the lazaretto of Beirut. It is announced now that said decision has been withdrawn since fresh plague cases have been observed. The Ottoman sanitary officials have received the order, as already reported, to be more vigilant and careful in the performance of their sanitary duties. The passengers of the steamship *Equateur*, after a fifteen days' quarantine, have had their pratique and quitted the lazaretto.

In India it always exists and does not seem to subside. About the plague in Persia I can not make any statement. According to an official communication from the Persian Government no more plague exists in Bushire or in other Persian cities or villages and as a consequence said Government invites the Ottoman sanitary officials not to subject their ships and passengers to quarantine any longer. But, according to what the Turkish consul at Bushire reports, the population of the latter city is very much against the British and Russian physicians who are there in order to take the necessary steps against plague. The British consul has already written for a man-of-war, their lives being threatened. We know by the Ottoman sanitary representative at Teheran that the shops and stores at Bushire continue to be closed. It is the British resident at Bushire that gives said information. He states that to begin only to put into execution the sanitary improvement would be the signal for the outbreak of riots. It is easily understood that it is quite impossible to know anything concerning the sanitary condition of that country. Up to a few weeks ago the sanitary physician at Bassorah used to transmit the Bushire plague news, but the governor of Bassorah has succeeded in removing Dr. Moschides from the latter city (see my report No. 226, dated August 22). I translate

the following lines from the sanitary report of Dr. Vaume, the Ottoman sanitary commissioner at Teheran :

"The governor (of Bushire) arrives, having good ideas. In order to begin to put into execution the recommended sanitary steps, he has chosen a caravansary, which is far from being fit, it being impossible to separate its different parts. In said caravansary there are many stables, shops, stores—true rat holes. Only for having chosen said caravansary, not a single man having yet been isolated, a kind of riot roars so that the British resident immediately recommends absolute abstention and Dr. Hore proposes to declare the city free of any disease."

In another sanitary report under date August 3, Dr. Vaume writes. * * * The British resident has wired : "The shops are still closed, the governor quite powerless. It was decided to cleanse the caravan-sary chosen for a quarantine camp, but it has caused great excitement in the population. The mollahs have convoked the people in the large mosque and have preached resistance." Dr. Hore, the British physician at the same city, states nearly the same facts, and he adds that since the 11th of July there are no more suspect cases, but he recognizes at the same time that it is not possible to visit any patient. He bases his statement of the nonexistence of plague on the number of deaths. He states that there were in all 12 deaths at Bender Dilem at the beginning of June; deaths following fever and considered as plague deaths, but according to other information, Dr. Hore continues, said deaths have no relation whatever with plague. * * * Besides that I read in Dr. Vaume's sanitary report that the mollahs (we may say the priests) of Bushire complain to the mollahs of Teheran against the Christian physicians who enter the henderun or haremluk (the part of the house reserved to the women) and visit the women.

According to Dr. Vaume it seems that no patient whatever has been visited by the British physician since the 8th of June, and on July 3, Dr. Paskowsky, the Russian physician, visited a man suffering from fever. I report the above details in order to show how difficult it is to know the sanitary condition of Persia where no sanitary service whatever exists. Neither can we make any statement on the sanitary condition of Russia.

MEDICAL CONFERENCE ON KOLOBOVKA.

At the last sitting of the superior council of health a letter forwarded by the Ottoman embassy in St. Petersburg, dated September 23, was read, in which I can read the translation of the official communication concerning the medical conference convoked in order to examine the illness which broke out at Kolobovka, in the province of Astrakhan. The members of said conference were divided. The minority, constituted by Messrs. Remmert, Lazarewitch, Miezewsky, Sklifanowsky, Loukia-now, and Raptchewsky, taking into consideration all the data of which they dispose, and considering the nature of the illness epidemiologically, clinically, pathologo-anatomically, and bacteriologically, has concluded that said illness, which may be considered at the moment as no more existing, must be recognized as an epidemic illness, acute, corresponding as far as it is possible to make a conclusion, according to the studies made on the spot, to the type of bubonic plague in its pneumonic form.

Messrs. Pastroutine, Kondrine, Soutougnine, Beliaïow, Pragozisie, Orsianikow, Vinozradow, Danilewsky, and Schidlowsky, who constitute the majority, have expressed the conviction that the data bearing on facts submitted to the examination of the conference are quite

insufficient, not only for ascertaining said illness to be plague, but also insufficient for establishing with due scientific precision the nature of said illness. The conference has, as a consequence, decided to send Drs. Raptchewsky and Vinogradow to get supplementary informations. On their return to St. Petersburg they will participate in the new studies that Dr. Levine is in charge of with the intent of elucidating the nature of the illness. By the conclusions of said medical conference we are not very much edified on the sanitary condition of Astrakhan and generally of Russia. We must not forget, however, that plague is the most insidious illness we know. Dr. Vaume, in his report communicated at the last sitting of the Superior Sanitary Commission, writes "What has alarmed the Russian Government is the announcement made by Mr. Mantignon, military physician, attaché to the French legation at Pekin, of the existence of plague at a spot not far from the Russian railroads in Manchuria."

SPREAD OF PLAGUE BY A RODENT IN MANCHURIA.

The Russian Government willing to know the reality of what was going on, decided to forward a mission under the direction of Dr. Zabolotny, accompanied by a botanist, a zoologist, and a scholar of the language school of St. Petersburg. Nearly ten years since, on the frontier which separates Siberia from Oriental Mongolia and Manchuria, as well as in the district of Atchinsky, the Russian physicians observed some persons suffering from fever and somnolence, presenting buboes, and dying in a few days. Said patients fell ill after having eaten the flesh of a rodent of big size like a big rabbit, and after having used its fat for lubricating their boots and other skin-wearing apparel, as well as the harness of their horses. Said rodent is very common in the north plains of Oriental Mongolia, its zoological name is *arctomys cobuc*. Mongolians call it tarabagan. The *arctomys cobuc*, the skin of which is very much exported, dwells in a peculiar kind of subterranean galleries in the bottom of which it reserves the seeds for its winter food. It knows how to wall up said galleries in order to preserve them from floods. The *arctomys cobuc* is subject to an epizootic which breaks out under the form of hemorrhagic pneumonia.

The Russian physicians having remarked a great similarity between the symptoms of said hemorrhagic pneumonia and those of classic plague, said malady has been qualified as plague of Tarabagan (Tarabagan plague), and several notes have been published on said illness. Now, southward from Mongolia, at 42° 3' latitude N. and 118° longitude E. of Paris, at 1,675 meters above the sea level, at the village called Toung-Kia-yng-tze, in the district of Wei tchang, ten days distant from Pekin northward and ten days westward from the Yellow Sea, near the forest of Wei-tchang, there is a Belgian Catholic mission. More than ten years since the Belgian fathers saw Tarabagan plague cases among their adepts but did not realize the extent of the evil.

It was only last year, in 1898, when they read in newspapers what was going on in India, as well as the description of bubonic plague in the latter country, that they remarked the resemblance of the Indian plague with the Tarabagan one. They notified the fact to the Pekin French legation and then Dr. Matignon, as above mentioned, went to Toung-kia-yng-tze and ascertained the existence of plague. At the same time, he thought of the probability of the infection of the Trans-Baikalia through the caravans which follow the road of Kalgan and the desert upland of Gobi. Said caravans transport tea and bricks. When

Dr. Zobolotny went to the spot he was able to observe 16 plague cases which he examined bacteriologically. The greatest number of cases have occurred in a Chinese village of 300 souls, Ma-hien-to, two hours distant on horseback from Toung-kia yng-tze. Before Dr. Zobolotny had arrived, 24 plague cases had already occurred with a fatal issue. According to the above information the present plague epidemic which threatens us does not recognize its origin in Hongkong or Southeast China but in Manchuria, and its existence goes back to more than ten years. I do not need to lay stress on the plague at Oporto or in South Africa, only I state that we are exposed to a real danger against which quarantines and lazarettos are powerless.

LAZARETTO OF STAMPALIA.

The steamship *Muruwet*, on board of which is the timber for the construction of the lazaretto of Stampalia, has already arrived at said island. Steps have been taken in order to connect by cable Stampalia with the island of Cos where a telegraph office already exists. The distance is 20 miles.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE TURKISH PROVINCES.

The sanitary news from the provinces of the Turkish Empire is good. In his sanitary report from Hanequie Dr. Cashdjan states that the mean temperature during the month of July in said place, on the boundary line between Turkey and Persia near Bagdad, was 40°-46° R. maxima and 26°-35° minima in the shadow. From Adalia the sanitary physician Dr. Marasoglu states that during the month of August an epidemic of measles broke out with high mortality. At the same time sporadic cases of scarlet fever were also observed, of which 30 per cent proved fatal.

In Constantinople public health is good. From the 18th of last September to the 2d inst., 330 deaths have been registered in said city. Of these, 1 is from diphtheria, 3 from smallpox, 7 from typhoid fever and 16 from acute disease of the respiratory apparatus.

SPERIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
U. S. Sanitary Commissioner.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

ARGENTINA—*Buenos Ayres*.—Month of August, 1899. Estimated population, 800,000. Total number of deaths, 1,191, including diphtheria, 3; measles, 2; scarlet fever, 4; smallpox, 1, and 1 from yellow fever.

AUSTRALIA—*New South Wales—Sydney*.—Month of August, 1899. Estimated population, 426,950. Total number of deaths, 280, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 2; scarlet fever, 2; whooping cough, 3, and 38 from phthisis pulmonalis.

BRAZIL—*Ceara*.—Month of September, 1899. Estimated population, 50,000. Total number of deaths, 124, including 14 from measles.

CHINA—*Fuchau*.—Two weeks ended September 23, 1899. Estimated population, 1,000,000. Total number of deaths not reported. Smallpox and plague present, but not in epidemic form.